

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02 COME-00 SS-15

NSC-05 NEAE-00 /061 W

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P 011232Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8903

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8851

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR, US

SUBJ: BELL HELICOPTER CO-PRODUCTION

REF: (A) TEHRAN 7148, (B) PM/MC LTR TO BELL DTD JUL 30, 1976

1. AUGUST 29, BELL HELICOPTER (CHARLES RUDNING, PRESIDENT OF BELL OPERATIONS - CO-PRODUCTION SUBSIDIARY) ADVISED GENERAL TOUFANIAN THAT THE CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELL AND GOI WOULD REQUIRE A MODIFICATION TO REFLECT NECESSITY FOR PRIOR USG APPROVAL FOR ANY HELICOPTER SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES. TOUFANIAN WAS DISAPPOINTED, BUT SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS PROPOSED MODIFICATION WIT THE SHAH DURING HIS SCHEDULED AUDIENCE AUGUST 30.

2. AUGUST 31, TOUFANIAN INFORMED DEFREP THAT SHAH WAS MOST DISAPPOINTED WITH AMENDMENT REQUEST, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL FOR ALL SALES OR TRANSFERS, EVEN TO COUNTRIES TO WHICH USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL OR TRANSFER SUCH HELICOPTERS. TOUFANIAN PROPOSED THAT USG AGREE NOW TO AUTHORIZE SALES BY GOI TO SAME COUNTRIES USG PREPARED TO SELL TO AT GIVEN POINT IN FUTURE WHEN IRANIAN-PRODUCED HELICOPTERS ARE READY FOR DELIVERY. TOUFANIAN SAID GOI WOULD AGREE TO OBTAIN PRIOR US APPROVAL ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS FOR SALES TO ANY COUNTRY
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WITH WHICH USG UNWILLING OR RELUCTANT TO DO BUSINESS.

3. DEFREP REHEARSED WITH TOUFANIAN US LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS, PARTICULARLY ITAR SECTION 124.10. DEFREP WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE (DRAWING ON POSITIVE TONE OF MC JULY 30 LETTER TO BELL) THAT IN VIEW OF USG-GOI PARTICULARLY CLOSE TIES, IRANIAN SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES WOULD RECEIVE CAREFUL AND APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION.

4. TOUFANIAN RESPONSE WAS THAT GOI HAS ALREADY BOUGHT OVER 800 HELICOPTERS; WHY SHOULD IRAN BUILD 400 OR MORE HELICOPTERS AND THEN TAKE CHANCE THAT USG WILL NOT AUTHORIZE SALES TO SAME COUNTRIES WITH WHICH US DEALS?

5. TOUFANIAN ALSO MADE CLEAR TO RUDNING (BELL OPERATIONS) SHAH'S AND HIS OWN DISAPPOINTMENT AT THIS DEVELOPMENT. AFTERNOON AUGUST 31, RUDNING CALLED ON POL/MIL COUNS TO RECOUNT SERIES OF EVENTS DESCRIBED IN PARAS ABOVE, AND TO STATE THAT HE WOULD FLY TO WASHINGTON AM SEPTEMBER 1, IN ORDER TO PURSUE POSSIBLE COMPROMISE BASED ON TOUFANIAN'S SUGGESTION (PARA 2 ABOVE) WITH INTER ALIA DSAA AND NEA/IRN. HELMS

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04 MAY 2006

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